

SOILS & THE CARBON CYCLE

“SOIL MICROORGANISMS AND FUNGI

are an important part of the carbon cycle on earth.”



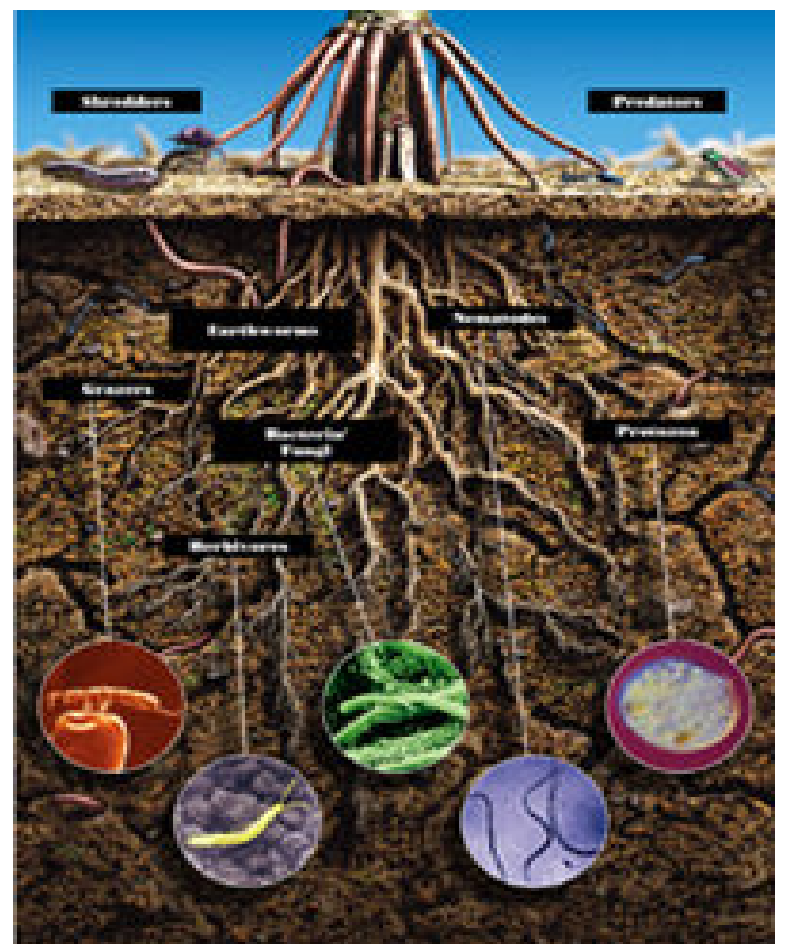
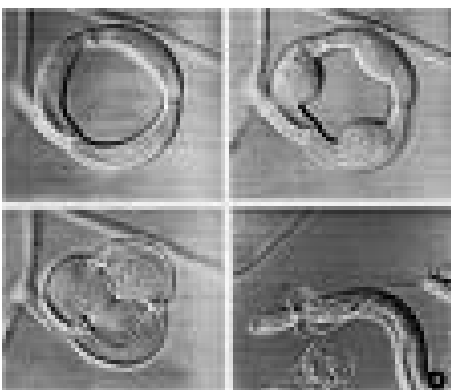
Carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere by producers: plants and trees that use CO_2 , sunlight and nutrients to make food through the process of **PHOTOSYNTHESIS**.

After the plants die off, the carbon is passed back into the soil from **DIGESTION** with the help of insect larvae, termites, ants, etc.



BACTERIA and **FUNGI** play a vital role in soil processes

by **DECOMPOSING** organic particles such as waste products and dead organisms in the organic matter of the soil.



YEASTS, also found in soils, break down plant matter by **FERMENTATION** and release carbon dioxide.

Some CO_2 is released back into the atmosphere through **RESPIRATION** as the organisms break down their food to create energy.

